

## CLAIMS

1. A transmission assembly comprising:
  - a housing having an aperture extending therethrough;
  - a seal coupled to said housing, said seal defining an axle aperture;
- 5 a lubricant dam enclosing said axle aperture of said seal;
  - a cover coupled to said seal, said cover including a first portion and a detachable second portion, said cover shielding said seal and said lubricant dam when said second portion is attached to said first portion, said cover defining an aperture aligned with said axle aperture
- 10 when said second portion is detached from said first portion.

  

2. The transmission of claim 1 wherein said first portion includes a substantially hollow cylindrical portion engageable with said seal.

  

3. The transmission of claim 2 wherein said seal includes an elastomer coupled to a case, said case being coupled to said housing, said substantially cylindrical portion of said cover biasedly engaging said case to couple said cover to said seal.

  

4. The transmission of claim 3 wherein said first portion includes an outwardly extending tang selectively engageable by an operator to separate said first portion from said second portion.

  

5. The transmission of claim 1 wherein said first portion includes a metallic member having a non-metallic member molded thereto.

6. The transmission of claim 5 wherein said non-metallic member of said first portion is integrally molded with said detachable second portion.

7. The transmission of claim 6 wherein said cover includes an axially extending slot to allow water to drain from said cover.

8. The transmission of claim 5 wherein said metallic member includes a plurality of apertures at least partially filled with said non-metallic member.

9. The transmission of claim 1 wherein said detachable second portion includes a substantially hollow cylindrically shaped shell adapted to at least partially surround a shaft extending outwardly from said housing.

10. A cover for an axle seal aperture, the axle seal being coupled to a transmission housing, the cover comprising:

5 a guard plate having an aperture extending therethrough, said guard plate being adapted to engage the axle seal and couple said guard plate thereto;

10 a shield having a first portion and a detachable second portion, said first portion being coupled to said guard plate, said shield enclosing said guard aperture when said second portion is attached to said first portion, said first portion defining an aperture aligned with said guard aperture when said second portion is detached from said first portion.

11. The cover of claim 10 wherein said guard plate includes an annular lip adapted to be engageable with the axle seal to couple the cover to the axle seal.

12. The cover of claim 10 wherein said shield is constructed from injection moldable material.

13. The cover of claim 12 wherein said first portion includes an outwardly extending tang selectively engageable by an operator to separate said first portion from said second portion.

14. The cover of claim 13 wherein said guard plate includes a plurality of apertures having portions of said shield positioned in said apertures.

15. The cover of claim 11 wherein said guard plate includes a conically shaped section positioned adjacent said annular lip, said conically shaped section adapted to cover a portion of the axle seal.

16. The cover of claim 15 wherein said guard plate includes an annular flange positioned adjacent said conically shaped section, said guard plate aperture extending through said annular flange.